

FOCUS

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2014 Vital Statistics

Missouri resident deaths reached a record high number for the second consecutive year, increasing by 1.5 percent from 57,256 in 2013 to 58,141 in 2014 (See Table 1). The record number of deaths primarily reflects an increasing total population and an aging population. The state life expectancy remained at 77.7 years in 2014, the same as in 2013. It was exceeded only by the 2012 life expectancy of 77.8 years. However, it is still less than the latest available national life expectancy of 78.8 years in 2013. Life expectancies for females remained at 80.1 years in 2014, the same as the previous year.

In comparison, male life expectancy decreased from 75.2 years in 2013 to 75.1 years in 2014.

As reflected in Table 2, seven of the ten leading causes of death increased in 2014. The six leading causes of death for 2013 and 2014 are respectively heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, unintentional injuries, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease. Of the ten leading causes, only chronic lung disease (#3), diabetes (#8) and pneumonia and influenza (#9) reflect a decrease between the two years. Nephritis (kidney disease) moved to seventh place, ahead of diabetes and pneumonia and

Table 1

Vital Statistics for Missouri: 2004, 2013 and Provisional 2014

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
	2004	2013	2014**	2004	2013	2014**
Births	77,709	75,244	75,104	13.5	12.4	12.4
Deaths	53,787	57,256	58,141	9.4	9.5	9.6
Natural increase	23,922	17,988	16,963	4.2	3.0	2.8
Marriages	40,824	38,984	40,779	7.1	6.4	6.7
Divorces	21,700	20,684	19,877	3.8	3.4	3.3
Infant deaths	583	488	456	7.8*	6.5*	6.1*
Abortions	11,871	8,740	8,129	152.8*	116.2*	108.2*
Population (1000s)	5,748	6,044	6,063			

*Per 1,000 live births

**Provisional data

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Table 2**Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 2004, 2013 and Provisional 2014**

Leading Causes of Death	Numbers			Rates per 100,000 Population		
	2004	2013	2014*	2004	2013	2014*
Heart	15,432	14,036	14,210	268.5	232.2	234.4
Cancer	12,429	12,902	13,009	216.2	213.5	214.6
Lung cancer	4,023	3,982	3,963	70.0	65.9	65.4
Chronic lung disease	2,738	3,800	3,739	47.6	62.9	61.7
Unintentional injury	2,639	2,965	3,156	45.9	49.1	52.1
Poisonings	471	903	987	8.2	14.9	16.3
Motor vehicle	1,087	757	779	18.9	12.5	12.8
Falls	609	703	732	10.6	11.6	12.1
Other	472	602	658	8.2	10.0	10.9
Stroke	3,483	2,913	3,010	60.6	48.2	49.6
Alzheimer's disease	1,384	2,018	2,047	24.1	33.4	33.8
Nephritis & nephrosis	1,080	1,298	1,446	18.8	21.5	23.8
Diabetes	1,466	1,477	1,413	25.5	24.4	23.3
Pneumonia & influenza	1,406	1,347	1,317	24.5	22.3	21.7
Suicide	728	958	1,004	12.7	15.8	16.6

*Provisional Data

influenza. In 2013 and 2014, suicide was the tenth leading cause of death, and for the first time ever, has exceeded 1,000 annual deaths.

Deaths from nephritis (11.4 percent) and unintentional injuries (6.8 percent) showed the largest percentage increases in 2014. All subcategories of unintentional injury deaths, motor vehicle, falls, poisonings and other contributed to the increase between 2013 and 2014. Accidental poisonings, which include overdoses from recreational drugs, particularly heroin, and prescription pain killers is the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in 2014 as it was in 2013. Deaths from accidental poisoning has increased from 903 in 2013 to 987 in 2014. This is a 9.3 percent increase between the two years. In addition, accidental poisoning deaths have more than doubled over the last ten years with heroin-related deaths more than doubling in the last five years. Furthermore, nearly 80 percent of the 338 heroin-related Missouri deaths in 2014 occurred in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Missouri resident live births decreased for the seventh consecutive year in 2014 as 75,104 babies were born compared with 75,244 in 2013.

Missouri births have decreased by 8.3 percent since reaching a peak of 81,883 in 2007. This decrease is in contrast with national births, which have increased in 2014 for the first time since 2007. Given the record number of Missouri resident deaths for the year, the natural increase from 2013 to 2014 was only 16,963. This was the smallest natural increase since 1973.

Between 2013 and 2014, teen births continue to decrease moving from 5,855 to 5,281 births born to mothers under the age of 20. This is a significant decline in comparison to the 2004 count of 8,891. Early teen (less than age 18) births also decreased, moving from 1,499 in 2013 to 1,406 in 2014. This is 49 percent lower than the count ten years earlier in 2004. In 2014, as contrasted with previous years, the decrease was greater for teens age 18 and 19 (11.0 percent) than for teens less than 18 years of age (6.2 percent). As Table 3 reflects, teen births have experienced a substantial decrease among both white and African-American teen mothers.

The infant death rate reached a record low in 2014, decreasing from 6.5 in 2013 to 6.1 per 1,000 live births in 2014 (See Table 3). Previously, the lowest infant death rate was 6.3 occurring in 2011.

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Table 3**Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 2004, 2013 and Provisional 2014**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	2004	2013	2014	2004	2013	2014
Infant Deaths	583	488	456	7.5*	6.5*	6.1*
White	406	302	289	6.4*	5.4*	5.2*
Black	168	126	122	14.9*	11.7*	11.4*
Low Birth Weight	6,440	6,046	6,163	8.3	8.0	8.2
White	4,639	3,928	3,920	7.3	7.0	7.0
Black	1,574	1,505	1,558	14.0	14.0	14.5
Inadequate Prenatal Care	7,490	12,982	14,204	10.1	18.6	20.2
White	5,088	7,789	8,534	8.3	14.8	16.2
Black	2,050	3,213	3,424	19.9	33.2	35.6
Teen (10-19) Births	8,891	5,855	5,281	11.4	7.8	7.0
White	6,394	3,795	3,415	10.0	6.7	6.1
Black	2,270	1,279	1,117	20.2	11.9	10.4
Early Teen (10-17) Births	2,767	1,499	1,406	3.6	2.0	1.9
Preterm (<37 weeks) (DLNM)**	10,352	8,671	8,957	13.3	11.5	11.9
Preterm (<37 weeks) (Obst. Est.)**	8,417	7,211	7,322	10.9	9.6	9.8
Multiple Births	2,618	2,733	2,615	3.4	3.6	3.5
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	4,877	5,057	5,203	11.2	12.0	12.1
Out-of Wedlock Births	28,704	30,360	30,246	36.9	40.4	40.3
Smoking During Pregnancy	14,083	13,155	12,454	18.1	17.6	16.7
Mother Obese	16,323	18,423	18,814	22.2	24.9	25.4
Medicaid Births	35,424	31,809	30,229	47.6	43.0	40.7
WIC Births	32,382	33,314	31,746	43.6	45.1	43.0
Food Stamps Births	17,710	23,313	20,856	23.8	33.1	29.8
C-Sections	22,832	23,317	22,562	29.4	31.1	30.1
Live Births	77,709	75,244	75,104			

*Infant Death rates are per 1,000 live births.

**Beginning in 2014 the National Center for Health Statistics recommends using the obstetrical (physician's) estimate of gestational age. The obstetrical estimate is considered more accurate than the previous method using the calculated difference between date of last normal menses (DLNM) and date of birth. Both methods are shown in this table to provide a comparison.

Missouri's 2014 infant death rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births is only slightly above the most recent national rate of 6.0 in 2013. The 2014 Missouri infant death rate for African-Americans of 11.4 per 1,000 live births was nearly 2.2 times the white infant death rate of 5.2. The 2013 ratio of African-American infant mortality to white infant mortality was also 2.2 to 1.

In 2014, Missouri adopted the method of estimating gestational age recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) (see <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/>

[nvsr64_05.pdf](#)). The new method uses the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery, replacing the formerly-used method of calculating the period between the date of last normal menses (DLNM) and the date of birth. The new method is considered more accurate according to various studies documented in the NCHS article. The results of both methods for estimating preterm (less than 37 weeks) births are shown in Table 3. Trends based on the two methods are generally the same, however, the obstetrical estimate preterm rate results in a considerably lower number than

the estimate using the DLNM. Both methods show a substantial decrease in preterm births since 2004, but an increase in the preterm rate from 2013 to 2014.

Other maternal and child health indicators presented in Table 3 show the following for 2014:

The rate of out-of-wedlock births slightly declined from 40.4 to 40.3 percent between 2013 and 2014. However, it has increased from the 2004 rate of 36.9 percent.

The rate of low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) births increased from 8.0 percent in 2013 to 8.2 percent in 2014.

Multiple births decreased slightly from 3.6 percent to 3.5 percent of births.

Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births increased slightly to 12.1 percent in 2014 from 12.0 percent in 2013 and 11.2 percent in 2004.

The number of Medicaid and WIC births both decreased by about 5 percent while the

number of mothers on Food Stamps decreased by 11 percent in 2014.

Abortions (See Table 1) decreased 7 percent in 2014 as 8,129 Missouri resident pregnancies were terminated compared with 8,740 in 2013. The 2014 number represents a 32 percent decrease from 11,871 abortions performed ten years earlier.

The rate of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care increased to 20.2 percent in 2014, compared with 18.6 percent in 2013. This is double the 2004 inadequate prenatal care rate of 10.1 percent.

C-Sections decreased by 3 percent during the last year, resulting in a decline in the overall rate from 31.1 percent of live births in 2013 to 30.1 percent in 2014.

Marriages increased by 4.6 percent to 40,779 while divorces decreased by 3.9 percent in 2014 to 19,877. The marriage to divorce ratio increased from 1.84 in 2013 to 2.05 in 2014. This is the first time the ratio has been above 2 to 1 since 1989.